UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/233
21 November 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH AND FRENCH

Fifty-first session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FIFTY-FIRST SESSION

PROCLAMATION OF 7 DECEMBER AS INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION DAY

Letter dated 19 November 1996 from the Permanent Representatives of Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, France, India, Mauritius and Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

We have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "Proclamation of 7 December as International Civil Aviation Day".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum indicating the reasons why the undersigned deem it important to include this item in the agenda is attached. We have the honour to request that the item be considered in plenary meeting.

(Signed) Anwarul Karim CHOWDHURY
Permanent Representative
of Bangladesh

(Signed) Robert R. FOWLER
Permanent Representative
of Canada

(Signed) Juan SOMAVÍA
Permanent Representative
of Chile

(Signed) Jean-Marie KACOU GERVAIS
Permanent Representative
of Côte d'Ivoire

(Signed) Nabil A. ELARABY
Permanent Representative
of Egypt

(Signed) Alain DEJAMMET
Permanent Representative
of France

(Signed) Prakash SHAH
Permanent Representative
of India

(Signed) Gaafar M. ALLAGANY
Acting Permanent Representative
of Saudi Arabia

(Signed) Taye Wah Michel WAN CHAT KWONG
Permanent Representative
of Mauritius

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a specialized agency of the United Nations system, was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of civil aviation in the world. It sets international standards and regulations necessary for the safety, security, efficiency and regularity of air transport and serves as the medium for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 184 contracting States.

Pursuant to a resolution adopted by ICAO at its twenty-ninth Assembly in 1992, 7 December of each year, starting in the fiftieth anniversary year of the organization in 1994, was declared International Civil Aviation Day. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was accordingly informed.

The Council of ICAO, considering the marking of International Civil Aviation Day in 1996 at the 3rd meeting of its one hundred forty-eighth session on 27 May 1996, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General of ICAO to take steps to urge the United Nations General Assembly officially to recognize 7 December each year as International Civil Aviation Day.

The preamble to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, adopted at Chicago in 1944, states: "the future development of international civil aviation can greatly help to create and preserve friendship and understanding among the nations and peoples of the world ...". Consistent with the objectives stated in the preamble to the Chicago Convention, international civil aviation has contributed significantly to the creation and preservation of friendship and understanding among the nations and peoples of the world. In an increasingly global economy, its importance in terms of promoting and supporting trade and tourism can only increase.

As a consequence, it would seem fitting that the United Nations General Assembly give formal recognition to a day on which the past and future benefits of international civil aviation can be highlighted and as a consequence further advanced.